

10/604,430
Amdt. Dated September 30, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of September 20, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated September 20, 2004, claims 1-16 and 19 were rejected, and claims 17 and 18 were objected to. Applicants have amended claims 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 and canceled claims 1-12, 14 and 17. Upon entrance of this Response, claims 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 will be pending in the present application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have added the limitations of claim 17 and claim 14 (the intervening claim) to independent claim 13 (the base claim) and canceled claims 14 and 17. In addition, Applicants have amended claims 15, 16, 18 and 19 to depend from claim 13.

In an effort to further the prosecution of this case, Applicants have canceled claims 1-12, which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,663,509 to Nesbitt et al. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the outstanding rejections has been overcome and that claims 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' Attorney, if such would advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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